



Government of Burkina Faso

THE BURKINA FASO URBAN COUNTRY PROGRAMME



The United Nations Square in Ouagadougou. Photo: Helge Fahrnberger

The Burkina Faso Urban Country Programme at a Glance

The Country Programme is a partnership initiative undertaken by the Government of Burkina Faso and its partners to align urban development efforts at the national, city and community levels. It aims to:

- ★ Support the Government of Burkina Faso's efforts to implement national housing and urban development strategies
- ★ Build the capacity of cities to strategically manage urbanisation
- ★ Empower and strengthen community organisations to actively engage in city development and national policy debate
- ★ Focus on primary cities (Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso) and secondary cities (Dori, Dedougou, and Tenkodogo)

WHAT IS THE BURKINA FASO COUNTRY PROGRAMME?

The Burkina Faso Urban Country Programme—*Programme-pays urbain du Burkina Faso (PPUB)* in French—is an initiative undertaken by the Government of Burkina Faso to align urban development efforts at the national government, local government and community levels. It aims to include the urban poor in planning and decision-making processes.

In particular, PPUB focuses on rolling out and implementing existing housing and urban development strategies at both the national and municipal level. It also seeks to facilitate sharing of data on urban issues among cities and various urban actors.

PPUB is the first Cities Alliance Country Programme in Francophone Africa.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME?

The programme seeks to support Government—both national and local—and urban poor communities so that they can effectively manage urban growth, improve access to services, and formulate inclusive urban development policies that benefit the poor at scale. It does this by:

- **Bringing coherence of effort** through an institutional framework that allows stakeholders to align their activities and financing towards common objectives.
- **Building effective partnerships** among the national government, city governments, urban poor communities and other stakeholders that enable inclusive city management and development to be scaled up.

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME?

The Government of Burkina Faso is implementing the programme through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in partnership with UN-Habitat, which has a long presence in the country. The Association of Municipalities of Burkina Faso (AMBF) is coordinating efforts at the local level, while the Burkinabé NGO Laboratoire Citoyenneté is undertaking activities at the community level. To implement the programme, these partners are supported by Cities Alliance members including UN-Habitat, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI).

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the programme is facilitated and supported by Cities Alliance, a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME?

Initial activities focus on a) setting up municipal forums and a National Urban Forum, b) establishing a network for sharing urban data on cities in Burkina Faso, and c) training and empowering local governments as well as community organisations so that they can participate in the urban development process.

Some 76.5 of Burkina Faso's urban residents live in slums, according to UN estimates.



A garbage collector's cart in Ouagadougou. Photo: Roman Bonnefoy

Urbanisation in Burkina Faso

- ✦ One of the least urbanised countries in the world, Burkina Faso's cities—especially its secondary cities—are growing at an overwhelming rate of 5.3 percent. Ouagadougou alone is projected to more than double between 2005 and 2020. (Source: UN-Habitat State of African Cities Report 2008)
- ✦ In recent decades, the Government of Burkina Faso has implemented various initiatives in an effort to cope with this rapid urbanisation, including decentralisation policies to promote grassroots development. Despite the Government's willingness to push further with decentralisation, many of Burkina Faso's 351 municipalities lack the capacity and funding to implement their strategic urban development plans.
- ✦ Burkina Faso's civil society has grown stronger following decentralisation efforts and has recently shown its engagement in supporting the democratic transition in the country. However, it is still learning how to involve itself confidently in urban governance and management issues.
- ✦ The Cities Alliance Country Programme builds on years of member activities in Burkina Faso, particularly UN-Habitat, France (both bilateral and decentralised through city partnerships), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It will support Burkina Faso as the country transitions to a new, inclusive development model that is based on local government and community participation.



Street scene in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso's second largest city. Photo: Mamadou Diagne/Cities Alliance

At the National Level

Country Programme activities at the national level focus on supporting the Government of Burkina Faso in its efforts to implement a national housing and urban development policy and develop a more effective urban agenda centred on sustainable, inclusive cities with the participation of all stakeholders.

- **The Burkina Faso National Urban Forum.** PPUB is supporting the organisation of a National Urban Forum as a platform for discussion on urban issues. Efforts focus on building support so that ownership is firmly established. A first edition of the Forum took place in October 2015. Once established and institutionalised, the Forum is expected to foster dialogue among all stakeholders and provide input for the formulation and implementation of national urban policies. It is also expected to help build the partnerships among stakeholders that are at the core of PPUB.
- **Sharing urban data.** The programme supports the development of a framework for collecting and sharing data on urban development in Burkina Faso. Currently, various actors are gathering data on urban issues, and the idea is to make all of this data available through a National Urban Observatory. As part of PPUB, a Burkina Faso State of the Cities Reports will also be undertaken; they are expected to generate a significant amount of urban data that will inform national urban policies.

At the City Level

At the city level, PPUB activities support strategic urban planning, including capacity building for city authorities in fast-growing secondary cities and rolling out City Development Strategies in Burkina Faso's two major cities. This part of the programme is supported by AMBF and French cooperation.

- **Implementing City Development Strategies.** While Burkina Faso's two primary cities, Ouagadougou and Bobo

Dioulasso, have the capacity to implement long-term plans, so far conflicting urban planning regulations have made it difficult for them to do so. The programme supports both cities in implementing City Development Strategies aimed at harmonising existing regulations and delivering on the priorities defined in their plans. Their experiences are expected to provide a rich source of knowledge and expertise for secondary cities as they implement their own strategic plans.

- **Assessing and building capacity in secondary cities.** Many of Burkina Faso's secondary cities lack the capacity to implement their existing long-term strategic plans, and often must cope with various disparate plans. As part of the PPUB programme, local authorities are receiving training on strategic urban planning to enable them to clearly define priorities and implement their plans. Strategic planning will also lead to small-scale municipal service delivery and upgrading projects supported by the programme in collaboration with communities.

This part of the programme seeks to leverage longstanding cooperation between PPUB cities and partners in Europe—for example, partnerships between Dedougou and the cities of Douai, France and Mouscron, Belgium; and cooperation between Tenkodogo and the French cities of Chinon and Etaules.

“The challenge is to build partnerships and take collective action to implement existing strategic plans, both at the national and municipal level.”

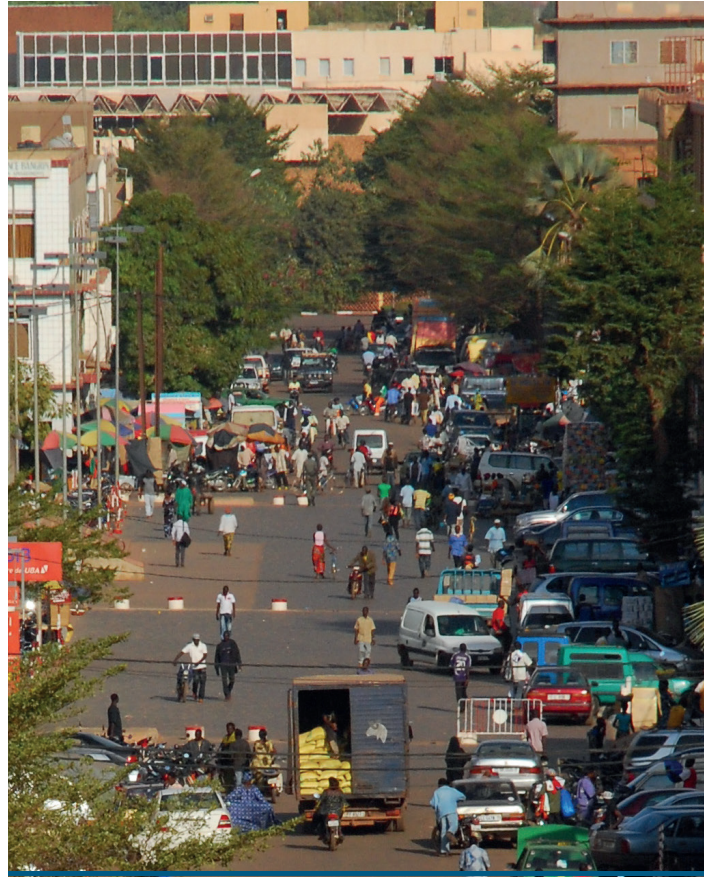
– Mathias Spaliviero, UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Africa

At the Community Level

Activities at the community level focus on strengthening Burkina Faso's civil society and community organisations so that they can actively engage in the urban debate at the national level. This part of the programme also seeks to mobilise communities and give them the capacity to work together and with local officials. These activities are implemented by the NGO Laboratoire Citoyenneté in cooperation with technical support from Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI).

Specific activities include:

- **Community upgrading projects.** PPUB supports inclusive upgrading projects at the community level. The communities will work together with the municipality to determine which projects are most needed, with the goal of including those priorities in the municipal urban plans. These projects aim to help communities build strategic dialogue with the municipality and scale up their activities.
- **Awareness-raising activities.** Communities and municipalities will work together to focus on urban issues and raise awareness of roles and responsibilities. For example, if drainage is an issue, communities can learn how building in certain areas might impact drainage, and what they can do to solve the problem.



Urban environment degradation in Ouagadougou. Photo: Mamadou Diagne/Cities Alliance

